GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2939
ANSWERED ON:15.03.2016
Manual Scavengers
Gogoi Shri Gaurav

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of manual scavengers injured or died at their work site after enactment of the Prohibition of the Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013 during the last three years, State-wise; and

(b) the action taken/being taken against the employers of such Manual Scavengers during the said period, State-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
(SHRI VIJAY SAMPLA)

(a) and (b) No case of death or injury of manual scavengers while performing duty has come to the notice of the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment. However, there have been reports in the news papers from time to time about death of persons while cleaning sewer/septic tanks. In addition, the Safai Karmachari Andolan (SKA) has also reported a list of such cases. Details of the cases which have come to the notice of the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment through news paper reports and reported by SKA during the last three years are given in the Annexure. The concerned State Governments have been requested to have these cases investigated and take action in accordance with the provisions of the MS Act, 2013 and also pay compensation to the family members of the victims as per the Supreme Court's verdict dated 27.03.2014 in W.P. (Civil) No. 583 of 2003.

Under Prohibition of the Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013 (MS Act, 2013) manual scavenging is prohibited with effect from 06.12.2013. No person, local authority or any agency shall, after the above date engage or employ either directly or indirectly as manual scavengers and every person so engaged or employed shall stand discharged immediately from any obligation expressed or implied, to do manual scavenging. The Act also prohibits employment of persons for hazardous cleaning of septic tanks and sewer. The Act provides stringent penalties of imprisonment or fine or both for violation of above mentioned provisions of the Act.